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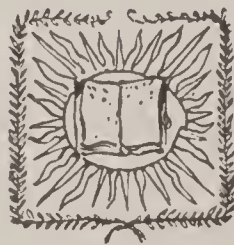


THE
JINGLE-JUNGLE
BOOK

THE JINGLE - JUNGLE BOOK

By

Oliver Herford



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1913

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THE
JINGLE-JUNGLE
BOOK

THE OPTIMIST

Said a cheerful old bear at the Zoo:
“I never have time to feel blue,
 If it bores me, you know,
 To walk to and fro,
I reverse it and walk fro and to.”



IN THE STYLE

A Tapir who lived in Malay
Was reading the fall styles one day,
When he cried with delight,
“*My* figure’s all right:
Tapir waists are the fashion, they say.”



A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

A puppy whose hair was so flowing
There really was no means of knowing
Which end was his head,
Once stopped me and said,
“Please, sir, am I coming or going?”



Arthur J.

THE COCKATOO

“Good gracious!” cried Miss Cockatoo,
“Whatever on earth shall I do?
Bright colors to-day
Have gone out, and they say
High head-dresses now are taboo.”



THE DELSARTIAN EEL

An eel who had studied Delsarte,
The alphabet thus could impart
 To a small school of fish,
 Who said 't was their wish
To learn without using a chart.



THE GNAT AND THE GNU

“How absurd,” said the gnat to the gnu

“To spell your queer name as you do!”

“For the matter of that,”

Said the gnu to the gnat,

“That’s just how I feel about you.”



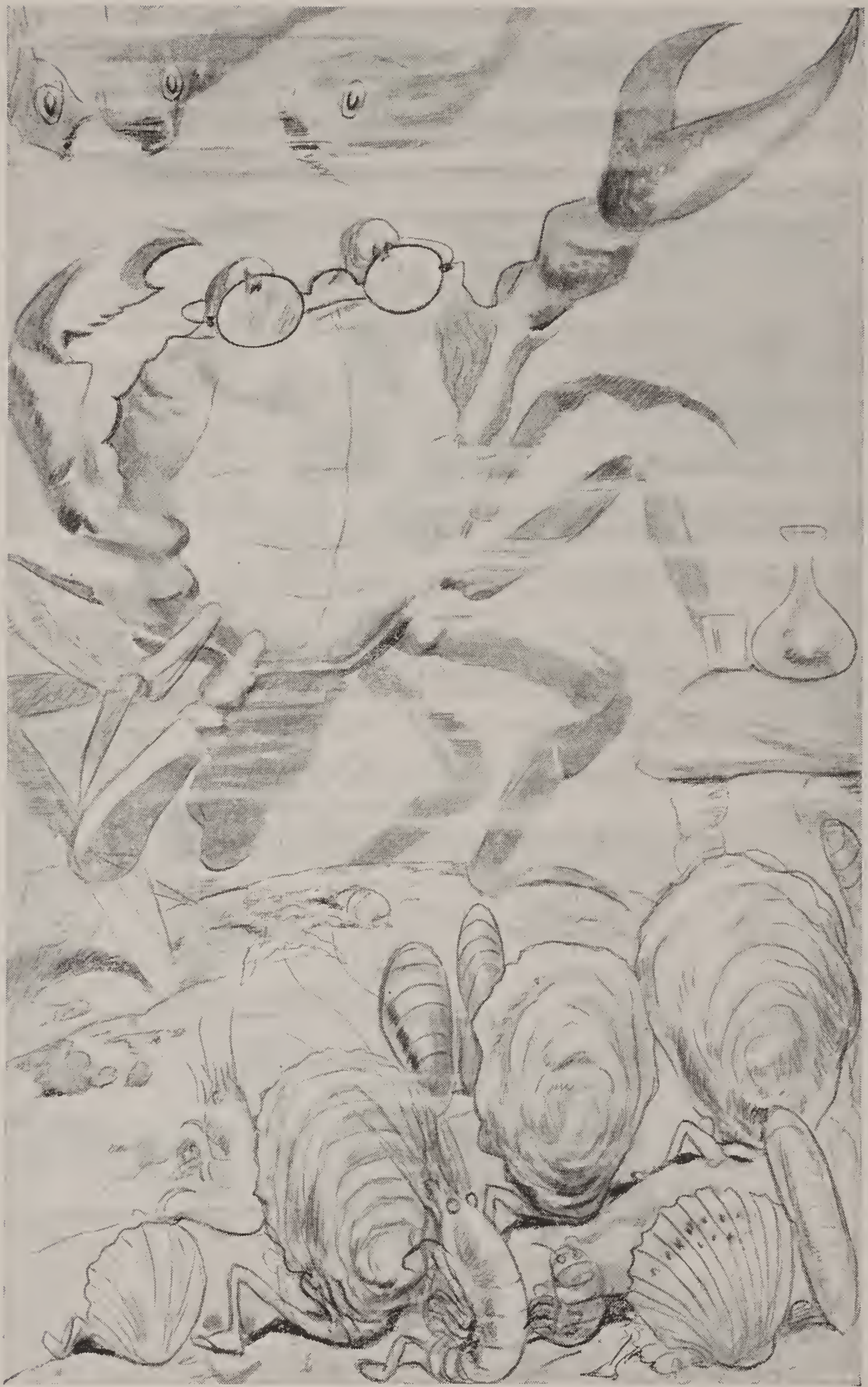
THE HUMOROUS ANT

Once a grasshopper (food being scant)
Begged an ant some assistance to grant;
But the ant shook his head,
“I can’t help you,” he said,
“It’s an uncle you need not an aunt.”



THE ORATORICAL CRAB

Said the crab: “’Tis not beauty or birth
That is needed to conquer the earth.
To win in life’s fight,
First be sure you are right,
Then go sidewise for all you are worth.”



THE ORACLE

There once was a weatherwise crow,
When asked if he thought it would snow,
He would ponder and say,
“Peradventure it may,
Then again it may not. Time will show.”



THE FASTIDIOUS YAK

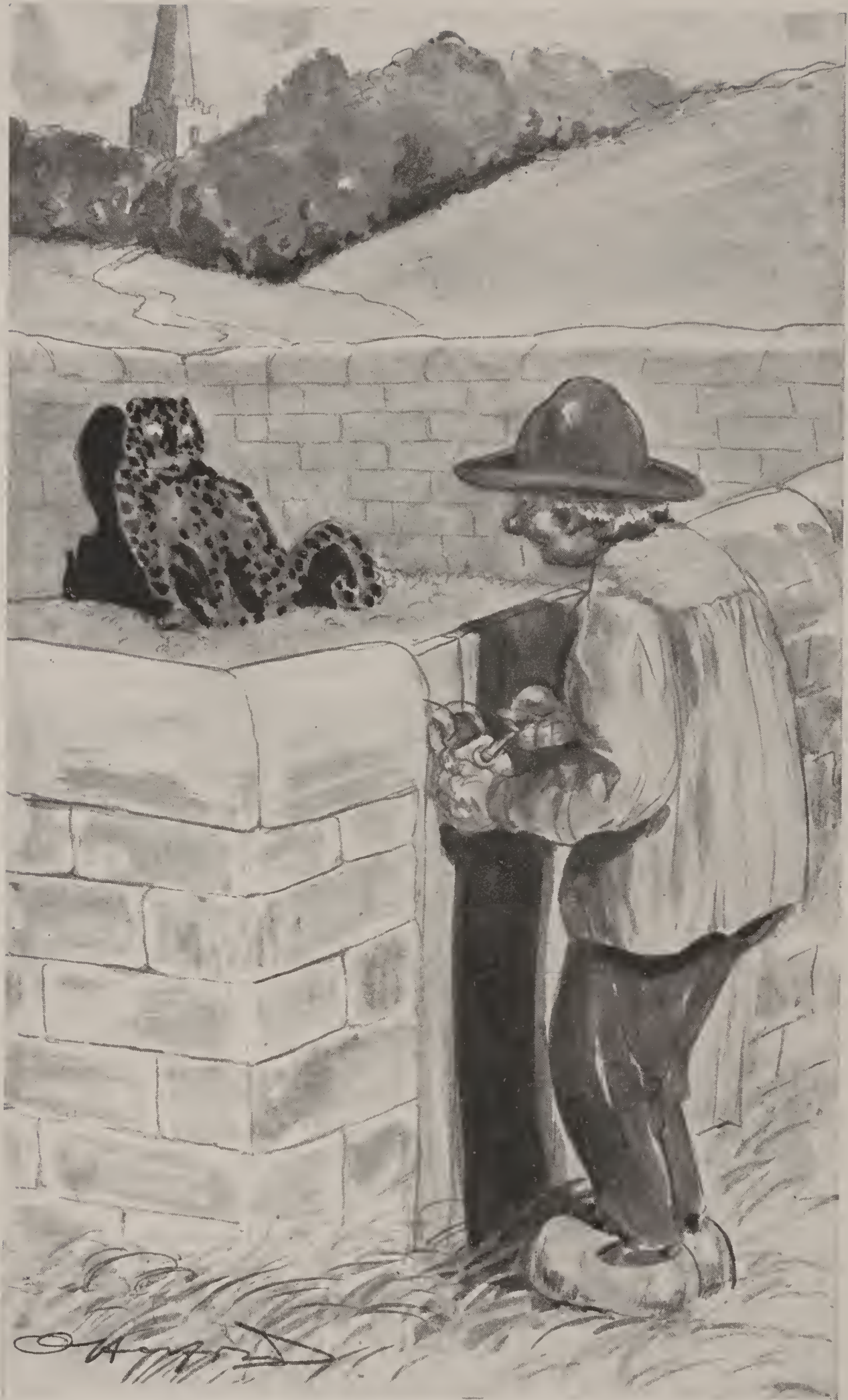
There was once a fastidious yak
Who refused to eat hay from a stack.
 “A haystack,” said he,
 “Looks so very like me!”
(The haystack’s the one at the back.)



THE OUNCE OF DETENTION

Once a pound-keeper chanced to impound
An ounce that was straying around.

The pound-keeper straight
Was fined for false weight,
Since he'd only one ounce in his pound.



THE THOROUGHBRED HORSE

“I have often been told,” said the horse,
“Of man’s intellectual force,
 A thing, if correct,
 I should never suspect
From the people I meet at the course.”



THE INQUISITIVE LEOPARD

A leopard, when told that benzine
Removed spots and imparted a sheen,
Just to try, drank a stein!
Next moment no sign
Of a spot (or a leopard) was seen.



THE FINANCIER FOX

There once was a plausible fox
Who explained that he dabbled in
“stocks.”

But they found out one day
“Live stock” was his “lay,”
When he “cornered” ten prize Plymouth
Rocks.



TRA-LA-LARCENY

A heathen named Min, passing by
A pie-shop, picked up a mince-pie.

 If you think Min a thief,

 Pray dismiss the belief:

The mince-pie that Min spied was Min's
pie.

BAKERY



THE MELANCHOLY CRANE

There once was a cryptical crane,
Who wore an expression of pain
And refused to be fed
Because some one said
He resembled one Hamlet, a Dane.



TACT

Quoth a cat to me once: "Pray relieve
My suspense. What does eight from nine
leave?"

Poor puss looked so cold
And so thin and so old,
I replied, "*Quite a few, I believe.*"



THE CHROMATIC CHAMELEON

There was once a chromatic chameleon
Who copied each tint he gazed freely on,
 When he tried a Scotch plaid,
 He went stark, staring mad,
And cried, "This beats Ossa on Pelion!"



THE SOLE-HUNGERING CAMEL

A camel, with practical views
On the nutritive value of shoes,
 To the mosque would repair
 While the folks were at prayer,
Little dreaming their shoes they would lose.



THE MENDACIOUS MOLE

Said the mole: "You would never suppose
How far back my family goes.

The first of my name
From Normandy came
On William the Conqueror's nose."



THE KIND ARMADILLO

There once was a kind armadillo
Who solaced a long weeping-willow.
Said he: "Do not weep!
What you need is some sleep;
Pray rest on my shell as a pillow."



A MOCK MIRACLE

There was a young waitress named Myrtle
Who carried a plate of mock turtle,
 When, strange to relate,
 She tripped, and the plate
That once was mock turtle turned turtle.



THE MISAPPREHENDED GOOSE

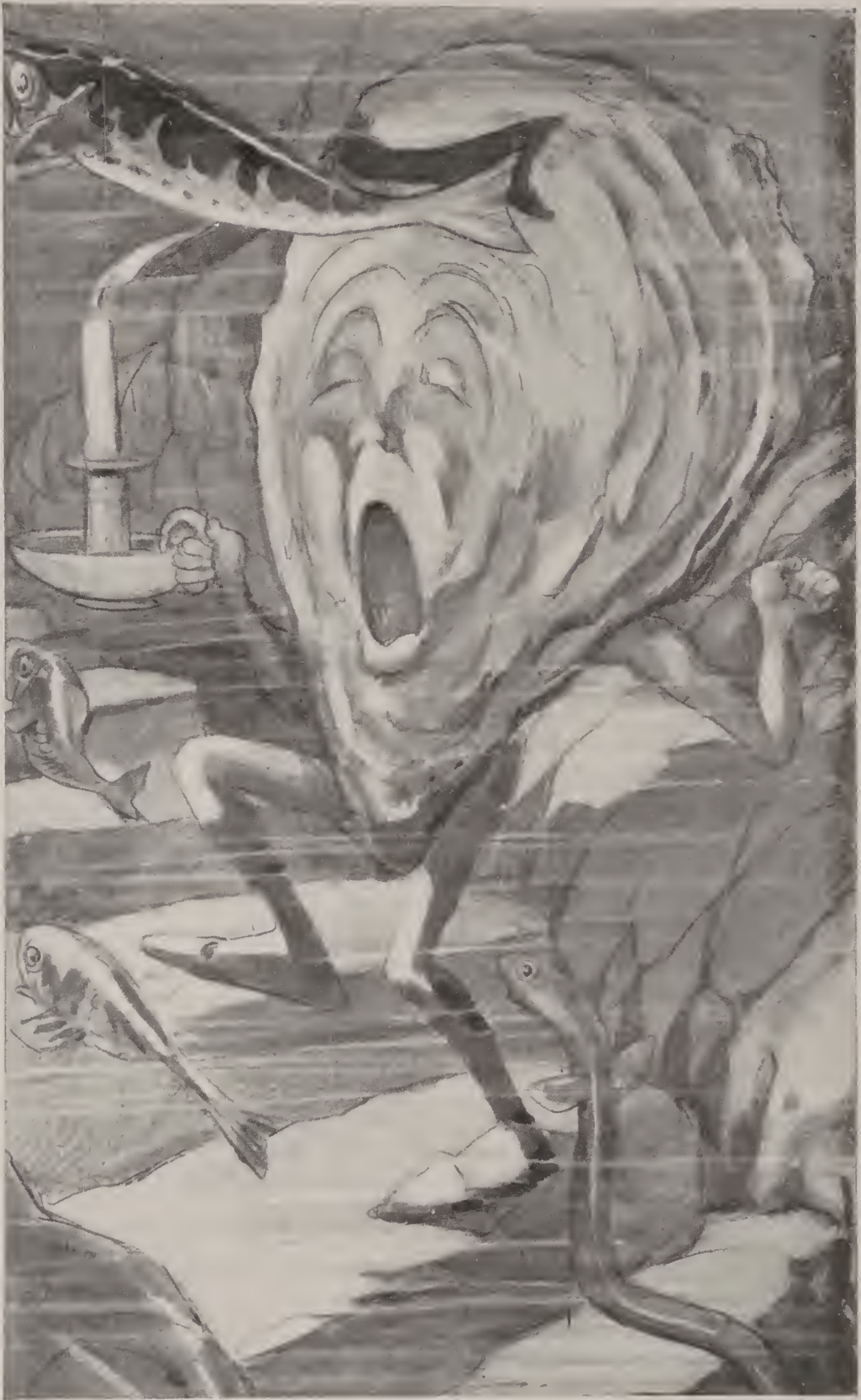
One evening a goose, for a treat,
For the opera purchased a seat.

At the very first line
She exclaimed, "How divine!"
And for hissing was thrown in the street.



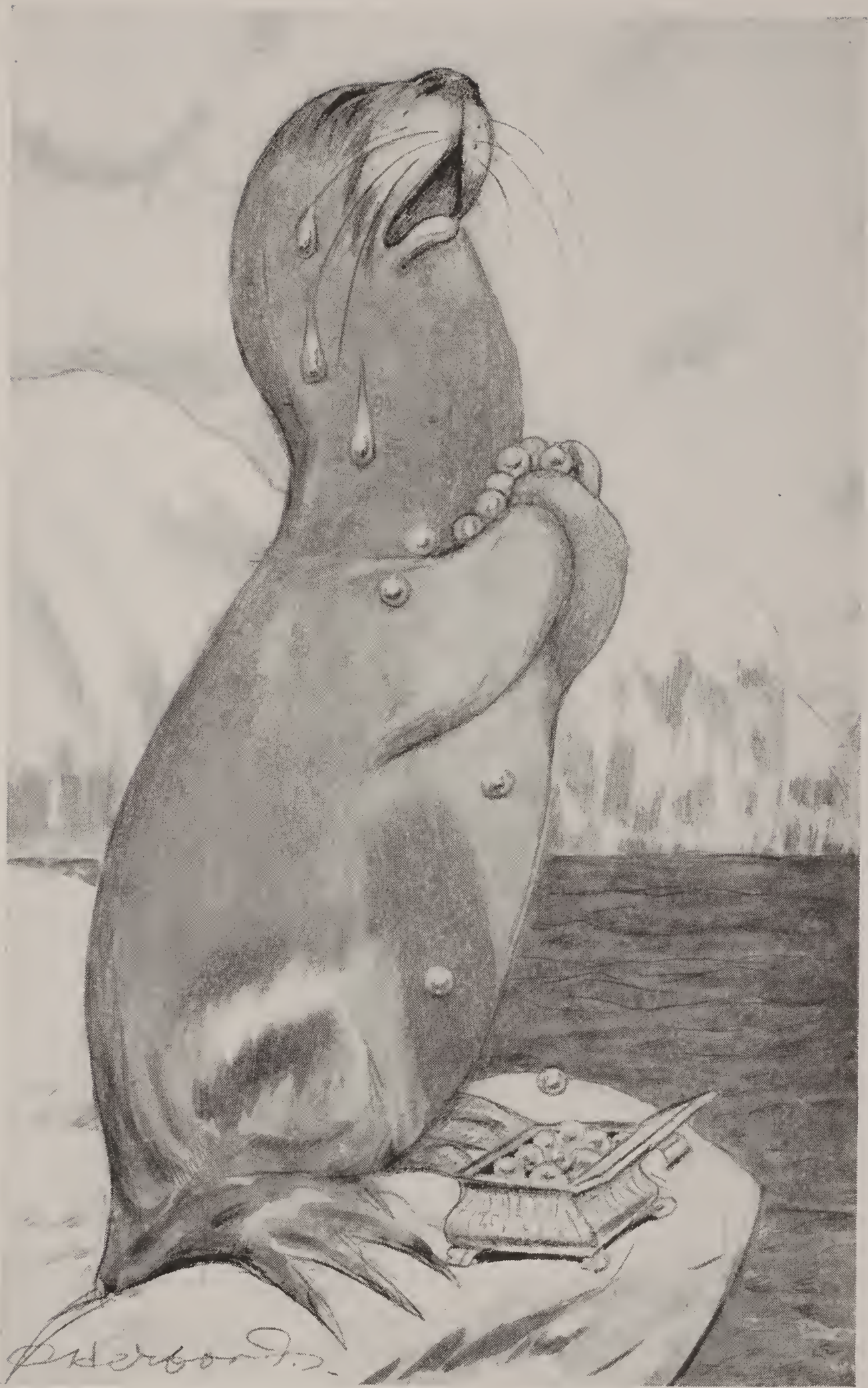
THE SOMNOLENT BIVALVE

Said the oyster: "To-morrow's May-day;
But don't call me early, I pray.
Just tuck me instead
In my snug oyster-bed,
And there till September I'll stay."



THE FEMININE SEAL

Said a lachrymose Labrador seal,
When asked why she wept with such zeal,
 “My tears are not lost,
 In this antarctic frost:
To magnificent pearls they congeal.”



THE PARTIAL PIG

A pig who to "Hamlet" was taken
Formed a theory that could not be shaken.

"In *Hamlet*," said he,

"A cipher we see

That proves it was written by *Bacon*."



A MATTER OF TASTE

Said the Ostrich, "I fear if I ate
A mince-pie, it would settle my fate;
But this crockery ware
Has a flavor that's rare!"—
And he passed back his pie for more plate!



THE ETERNAL FEMININE

Said the spider, in tones of distress:

As a spinster I'm not a success.

 Though I toil and I spin

 And I work myself thin,

I never can have a new dress.



THE OWLTRUISTIC OWL

A canary, its woe to assuage,
Once invented a wireless cage.

The owl shook his head,
“It’s a Great Thought,” he said;
“But it’s far in advance of the age.”



THE MISANTHROPIC CONDOR

Said the condor, in tones of despair:
“Not even the atmosphere’s rare.
 Since man took to flying,
 It’s really *too* trying,
The people one meets in the air.”



THE FILCANTHROPIC COW

Said a cow: "It has long been my dream,
A sort of utopian scheme,
 To leave, when I die,
 Enough milk to supply
A home for poor kittens—with cream."



THE PROVIDENT PUFFIN

There once was a provident puffin
Who ate all the fish he could stuff in.

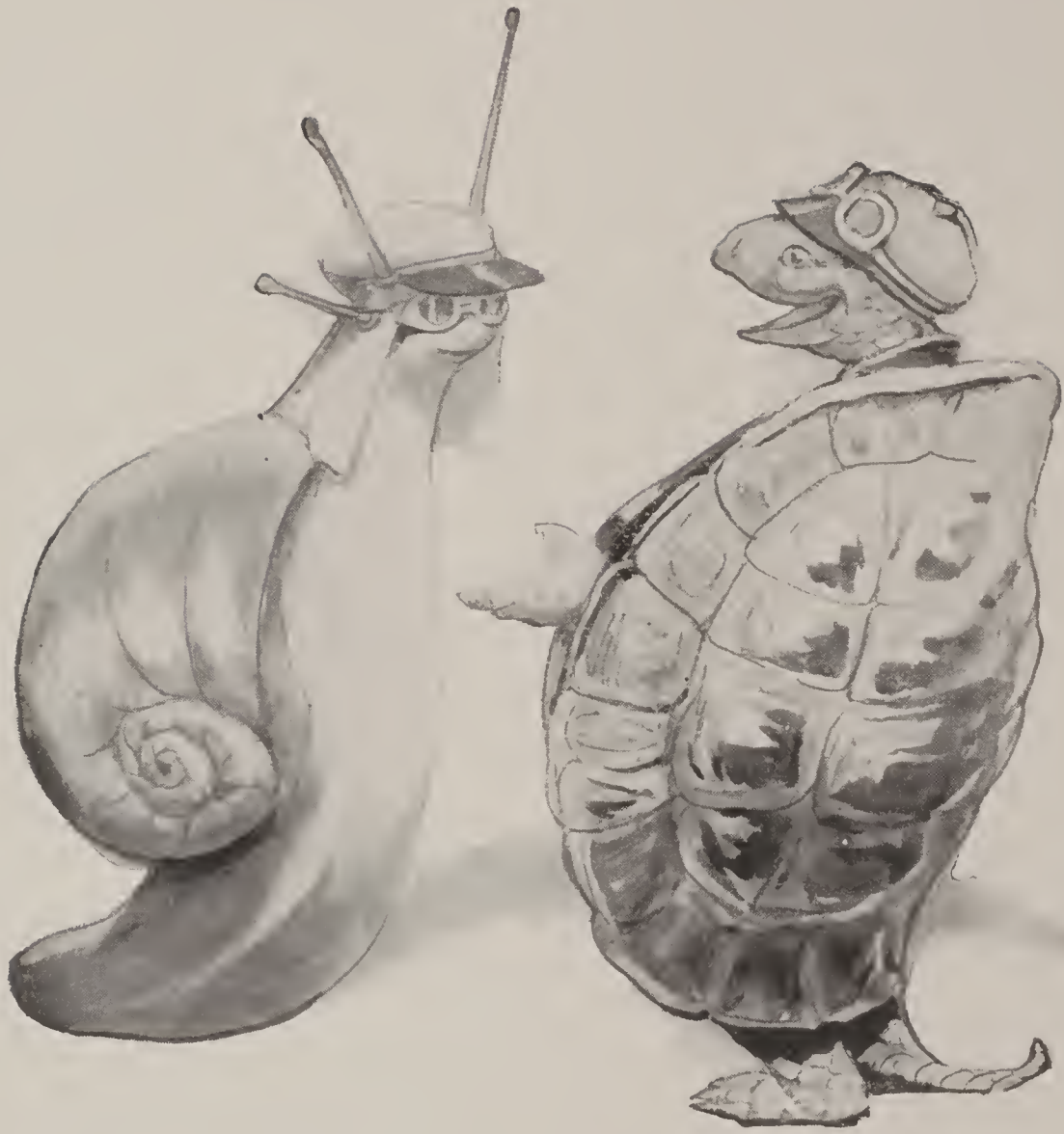
Said he, "'Tis my plan
To eat when I can:
When there's nuffin' to eat I eat nuffin'."



THE BOASTERS

Said the Snail to the Tortoise: "You may
Find it hard to believe what I say;
 You will think it absurd,
 But I give you my word,
They fined me for speeding to-day."

"Well,well!" said the Tortoise. Dear me!
How defective your motor must be!
 Though I speed every day,
 Not a fine do I pay:
The police cannot catch me, you see."



THE CANTANKEROUS 'GATOR

There was a cantankerous 'gator
For whom 't was no pleasure to cater.
 If he happened to find
 No dish to his mind,
He would like as not swallow the waiter.



THE ERUDITE ERMINE

Said an envious, erudite ermine :
“There’s *one* thing I cannot determine:
 When a *man* wears my coat,
 He’s a person of note,
While *I’m* but a species of vermin!”



THE FAN-TASTIC SQUIRREL

Said a squirrel who raced with a fan;
“You are built on a wonderful plan;
 But you’d better take care
 Or you’ll lose all your hair.
I advise you to stop if you can.”




THE OMNIVOROUS BOOKWORM


Quoth the bookworm, "I don't care one bit
If writers have wisdom or wit;
 A volume must be
 Pretty dull to bore me
As completely as I can bore it."







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